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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 28, 2010

**State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational
Education to honor House Rep. Massey
as 2010 Champion of Colorado Community Colleges**

CANON CITY – During his service in the Colorado State Legislature, Tom Massey (R-Poncha Springs) has been a huge supporter of community colleges in his position as Representative of Colorado House District 60, which encompasses Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park, Pueblo and Saguache counties. This week, the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education will honor Massey with a special award for his continuing support.

While on a tour of Southeast Colorado community colleges this week, the State Board will recognize Massey on Wednesday, Sept. 29, as the Colorado Community College Legislator of the Year. The presentation will take place during a reception for him that will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. here in the Darryl Biggerstaff Learning Resource Center at Pueblo Community College's Fremont Campus.

Making the presentation of the 2010 Champion of Community College award will be Dr. Nancy McCallin, President of the Colorado Community College System; Bernadette Marquez, State Board Chair; and Patty Erjavec, PCC President. Massey, who lives in Poncha Springs near Buena Vista, will receive a beautiful crystal star. He also was selected for the award by the State Board in 2009 for his tireless work as sponsor of the implementation legislation for the successful ballot initiative in 2008 – Amendment 50 – that allowed gaming expansion in Colorado's three mountain towns with the additional money going to Colorado's community colleges.

The Republican's political platform includes improving the quality and delivery of programs for public education from pre-kindergarten through higher education, and he has always backed his professed words with deeds. In this year's Colorado General Assembly, Massey served on the Education, House Services, and Local Government Committees.

Earlier in the day, State Board members will stop at PCC's main campus in Pueblo, where they will visit the Dental Hygiene Clinic.

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Founded in 1933, Pueblo Community College is a premier teaching institution focused on providing academic and service excellence to help its students acquire the 21st Century skills needed to better their lives. An educational and technological leader, PCC fosters economic development and utilizes strong partnerships in the communities it serves through its Pueblo, Fremont and Southwest campuses.

The Colorado Community College System comprises the state's largest system of higher education serving more than 134,000 students annually. CCCS oversees career and academic programs in the 13 state community colleges and career and technical programs in more than 160 school districts and seven other post-secondary institutions. The system's colleges include: Arapahoe Community College, Colorado Northwestern Community College, Community College of Aurora, Community College of Denver, Front Range Community College, Lamar Community College, Morgan Community College, Northeastern Junior College, Otero Junior College, Pueblo Community College, Pikes Peak Community College, Red Rocks Community College and Trinidad State Junior College.